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Henry Hastings Hall to W S Hall, 10 July 1859

Woongong W A

July 10th 1859

My very dear brother

I am in receipt of your favor of 9th June and believe I have received all you have written. I always make a point of naming the date of any communication when I reply to it. The mail for your Colony passes Woongong on or about the 15th and we generally receive the mails from the Eastern colonies a few days earlier so that we generally receive & answer letters in the same week — this cannot be the case with you, otherwise my letters to you and Sarah by the April and May mails would not remain unacknowledged.

Our lamented father having departed this life on the 20th of April a few days after the departure of the Mail prevented my informing you of the same until the following month but I hope long ere this you and Sarah have received those letters wherein I have dwelt most fully on every particular connected with that melancholy event. For the present I shall (D V) write to one or both of you by *every mail* you may depend on this. The first long letter to Sarah was to be forwarded to you — it explained every thing for a month after my arrival. I shall & have sent you both papers, you will see where I have administered to the Estate. I shall look out *jealously* to your interests but as I intend remitting you £30 as soon as I can get Frank to sell the cattle you will be able to come up if you please.

Nathan Knight died in Perth after a short illness disease of kidneys he leaves 5 sons in a destitute condition, but people are very kind to them. Mrs Ted Hester has been confined and Ander's wife made him a father for a few hours the child died from a series of mishaps

Our plowing is late but the season very favorable, we have got three tons of Guana for the land and Mr Bickley who is remarkably kind has lent us a horse team so we have now four horses and a bullock team for plowing. Ander is in Perth as a Juror for a whole week. I am sorry

to hear of poor old Jim's illness — very kind regards to him and Taylor. Edward is away on his new farm at the Blackwood. You need not be afraid of my 'prospecting' whilst there is anything important to do.

Poor Tom Peel is *ruined*, he became answerable for his fathers debts on condition of the Serpentine being given to him, this mortgage and his own *long* accumulating debts have at last brought about a crisis. The mortgagee has let the place for £150 a year merely to pay interest and his creditors will seize the remainder. He has lately got his only sister from England and it is supposed they will both have to turn out for a living. I have not seen Letitia or Theodosia at present I don't know what to say about returning to Victoria it will much depend on how I *settle* here – If Cohen does not press me too closely I think I shall be able to arrange & as prospects are very good here I will keep the place if I can. If you do not receive long explanatory letters blame everything but me – I will write and tell Sarah that if I write anything intended for you both and she wishes to keep it she must get Fanny to copy it for you – Carr and wife arrived here again a few weeks ago he has arranged to take Habgoods business – As our father died intestate you come in for a share of personally [*sic*] property with the rest after deducting expenses & debts — but of course I am the principal creditor. If you eventually come back I shall get you to bring me two or three trifles from Melbourne. I scarcely know how to write more until I hear what letters you do or do not receive. I believe Peel is in for about £3000 — that makes my affair look rather small — Logues are doing well and I believe Joe and wife are very happy.

Be sure to let me know if you can learn anything of Bouglass. Now Brachers have left B you must write me whether it will be judicious to write you to their care any more. If I send to the place you last wrote from you could get your letters if you have removed by an order. Are you living near Taylor. I thought I should have had a line from him. I send him a paper. Adam Armstrongs place is to be sold by order of his creditors. I will leave this open until I have to post it.

July 12th I have just been up to Court for the final business in administering to the Will This business has led me much into town since our parents death. I need scarcely repeat that if I remain here I

expect you to return and join me or otherwise we go in jointly in Victoria. I have written to the Government offering them the amount of the original debt £77 without interest on condition that they grant me in *fee* the lands confirmed to us during Mr Hutts *reign*. I have every reason to believe they will comply of course without the deeds I could not dispose of the land. I have been as good as offered £200 for the Murray by Geo Leake but shall offer that and the rest to public competition. I know my dear fellow you will find it rather hard commons on the diggings but rest assured it shall not be for long if I can control events. With our united warmest love to you

I remain my dear brother

Very affectly

H H Hall